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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST:

FLICKERS RECEIVES \$22,000 GRANT FROM CHAMPLIN FOUNDATIONS

Grant will create a post-production educational training platform for future media professionals

Flickers, the producers of the annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival**, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a \$22,000 grant from the Champlin Foundations to help support its efforts to create **The KidsEye Digital Discovery Lab**. The Lab is designed to teach fundamental elements of film/media post-production and will be available on a year-round basis to Kidseye campers, film students, interns, and adults.

As part of its educational mission, Flickers has a longstanding history in creating hands on programming for young people, most notably Flickers' **KidsEye™ Summer Filmmaking Camp**. Now in its 17th year, KidsEye is a fun, intensive, in-depth, five-day program for children ages 8-17. The camp is held annually at the University of Rhode Island and supported by the Harrington School of Communication and Media. KidsEye provides youngsters with a unique introduction to basic elements of the filmmaking process -- preproduction, acting, directing, and cinematography -- culminating in a red carpet, free public showcase of their finished work as part of the Rhode Island International Film Festival in August.

The lab would allow Flickers to extend its film education offerings beyond a seasonal basis to include classes on digital filmmaking, image capture, screenwriting, editing, sound design and special effects.

The Lab will be available within Flickers' Providence office located at The Vets.

This initiative will also allow Flickers to expand collaborations with non-profit organizations, enhance existing partnerships, increase educational outreach initiatives, and broaden relationships with regional Universities and High Schools. The intent of this initiative is to provide community members the opportunity to gain proficiency in current digital technologies utilized within the media industry, preparing students and adults for careers in film production.

This marks the second grant from the Champlin Foundations, which involved Flickers; the first being \$60,000 for the purchase and installation of a state-of-the-art Ultra High Definition Christie Projector System at Veterans Memorial Auditorium (The Vets). Flickers researched and wrote the grant in a partnership with The Vets Foundation in 2013. The grant was designed to provide a reasonable to no-cost utilization of **The Vets** for non-profit organizations as well as the Rhode Island Business community, enabling use of this flexible venue for meetings and conferences requiring digital projection capability.

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is a qualifying festival for both the Short Narrative and Documentary Short Film Academy Awards through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). There are only 6 film festivals worldwide that share this distinction and RIIFF is the only festival in New England. The Festival takes place every August.

For more information about the **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **August 9-14, 2016** at **The Providence Performing Arts Center** (PPAC) and **The Vets** (formerly Veterans Memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at www.RIFilmFest.org or call **401.861.4445**.

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